

2.2 Clayton Valley (Basin 143)

The Clayton Valley hydrographic basin encompasses approximately 555 square miles in central Esmeralda County (County). Although this basin has not been "designated" by the State Engineer, committed water resources of 21,399 AF/year exceed the estimated perennial yield of 20,000 AF/year. The County owns and manages approximately 548 AF/year of water rights, all of which are associated with supplying the largest community in the basin, the town of Silver Peak (Figure 5). The town exists mainly in support of local mining operations, with a population that may fluctuate between about 120 to over 200 residents.

A letter from the DWR dated August 20, 2003 identifies water rights associated with "...underground sources for municipal use in the Town of Silverpeak..." to initiate quarterly pumpage reporting. The letter includes all three water rights held by the County (certificate 9902, 9894 and permit 69220). Following is the list of the Clayton Valley water rights held by the County, along with additional notes:

<u>Water Right</u>	<u>Conditions or management elements worth noting:</u>
¹⁹ Certificate 9902	The documented POD, known locally as Silver Peak well W01, was not recorded with a GPS. Rather, the location was confirmed regarding the documented quarter-quarter Section information per utility personnel and landmarks (distribution system infrastructures) identified during the August 2006 reconnaissance. This water right's documentation uses the map from the cancelled permit 23142 for the surveyed location of the POD (Figure 5). Water associated with this right is not currently being placed to beneficial use. The TCD for all three water rights detailed on certificate 9902, 9894 and permit 69220, is combined for a total of 178.2 MGA or 546.88 AF/year and documented under permit 69220. The duty for this certificate is 42 AFA.
²⁰ Certificate 9894	This water right's POD is associated with the primary source of municipal water for the Town of Silver Peak, designated well W02. A well drillers report for the surveyed POD is available as #14450. See certificate 9902 above for TCD information. The duty for this certificate is 112 AFA.
²¹ Permit 69220	This water right's POD is associated with the primary source of municipal water for the Town of Silver Peak, designated well W03. See certificate 9902 above for TCD information. The duty for this permit is 392.81 AFA.